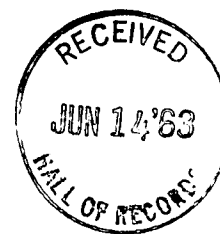
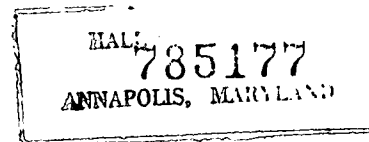


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INTERIM REPORT  
of  
Master Plan Committee on State Parks

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Master Plan of Regional State Parks  
and  
Recreation Areas in Maryland

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Supplemental to Part I

Department of Forests and Parks  
in cooperation with  
Maryland State Planning Department

March, 1963

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE ON STATE PARKS

March 29, 1963

To The Honorable  
J. Millard Tawes  
Governor of the State of Maryland

To The Honorable  
Members of the General Assembly  
Annapolis, Maryland

Gentlemen:

In its last official report on January 30, 1962, the Master Plan Committee on State Parks transmitted Part I of a "Master Plan of Regional State Parks and Recreation Areas in Maryland" as prepared by this Committee. Part I, as approved unanimously by the Committee, covered proposed administrative revisions and State policies considered basic to future park ownership and operation; set forth a classification scheme; State park criteria; general priority considerations; and designated areas selected for inclusion in the Master Plan.

In transmitting Part I to the Governor and the General Assembly, the Master Plan Committee on State Parks stated as follows: "Part II of the report will comprise detailed descriptions of the areas selected in Part I, including the types of development to be provided in each area, estimated project costs, and a recommended ten-year schedule of projects to carry out the plan".

It was the hope and intention of the Master Plan Committee on State Parks to have Part II completed and presented to the General Assembly during the current 1963 Session. However, this has proven impractical for reasons set forth hereinafter.

Before discussing these reasons, it seems logical to proceed chronologically with the Committee's activities, beginning with changes in the composition of the Committee as set forth following:

Honorable Charles W. Coss, Delegate from Washington County, resigned from the Committee in accepting a position with the Federal Government. He was replaced by Mr. J. Ralph Fiery of Hagerstown.

Honorable J. Grahme Walker, Delegate from Montgomery County, resigned to accept an appointment as Judge in Montgomery County. He was replaced by Mr. John P. Hewitt, Director of Parks of the Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission.

Honorable Charles M. See of Allegany County was unavailable to the Committee for the latter part of 1962 because of illness.

Mr. F. Perry Smith, Jr., of Cumberland, was added to the Committee during the year, as was Mr. Willis T. Hancock, currently a member of the State Commission on Forests and Parks.

Mr. S. L. Hammerman, who served as a member of the Committee from its creation, was appointed Chairman of the Forests and Parks Commission during the year.

The undersigned was designated to serve as Chairman of the Committee in place of Mr. Joseph F. Kaylor, Director of the Department of Forests and Parks, who remained as a member of the Committee. These changes, together with hold-over members, left the composition of the Master Plan Committee as follows:

James J. O'Donnell, Chairman

Mr. J. Ralph Fiery  
Senator Bernard I. Gonder  
Mr. S. L. Hammerman  
Mr. Willis T. Hancock  
Mr. John P. Hewitt  
Delegate William M. Houck

Mr. Joseph F. Kaylor  
Mr. Morris Mechanic  
Mr. James G. Rennie  
Senator Charles M. See  
Mr. F. Perry Smith, Jr.  
Delegate C. Clifton Virts

At its first meeting in the Summer of 1962, the reorganized Committee set about immediately to undertake the task of developing Part II of the Committee's Report. This was to consist of detailed descriptions of the respective areas designated for development, including a summary of estimated

total costs, and estimated individual project costs. It would also embrace a recommended ten-year program broken down into priorities. To gather and evaluate information for these objectives, the Chairman established several Subcommittees of the membership as follow:

Mr. Hewitt (Chairman), Senator Gonder, and Mr. Hammerman -- to cover parks and recreation areas in Garrett, Allegany, Washington & Frederick Counties.

Delegate Houck (Chairman), Delegate Virts, and Mr. Mechanic, with Mr. Smith added to this Subcommittee after his appointment to the Committee -- this group to cover parks and recreation areas in Montgomery, Prince George's, Howard, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Baltimore, Harford, and the western half of Cecil County.

Mr. Hancock (Chairman), with Messrs. Fiery and Rennie -- to cover parks and recreation areas in the eastern half of Cecil, Charles, St. Mary's, Calvert, Kent, Queen Anne's, Dorchester, Talbot, Wicomico, Caroline, Worcester and Somerset Counties.

The purpose of these Subcommittees would be to review all the parks, recreation areas, and historical sites within the assigned regions; to examine the existing recreational facilities; evaluate their potential; and check the feasibility of different types of development as proposed by the Consultant who served the Committee prior to preparation of Part I of the Report (see Introduction as well as Pages 21 and 22 of the Committee's Report of January, 1962).

The Subcommittees were then asked to report back to the Committee as a whole for an appraisal and evaluation of their findings and recommendations.

A fourth Subcommittee consisting of the Chairman, Senator See and Mr. Kaylor, was established to review and study special areas and problems.

Following inspection trips and evaluation by the respective Subcommittees, the Committee as a whole subsequently met on several occasions and discussed in considerable detail their impressions and findings in many of the areas visited. This resulted in these determinations by the Committee:

- (1) Need for more definitive property taking lines and property information on all of the park and recreation areas.
- (2) Need for detailed planning in all areas where such does not now exist as the only possibility of establishing reasonable goals, objectives, costs, and priorities and as a basis for firming up detailed property needs and usages.
- (3) Reaffirmation of the findings and recommendations of the Committee as contained in Part I of the Report.

With the information at hand, and these conclusions, Committee members reviewed in detail in the office of the Department of Forests and Parks existing property and development maps, weighing and reconciling their impressions from visits and reports. This examination and discussion resulted in the conclusion that although plans had been developed for Tuckahoe, for the Carter property in Gunpowder, for Shad Landing, and for Greenbrier, the information at hand as a whole was not adequate enough to permit completion of a report which would include reliable estimated total costs of land acquisition and development, and the establishment of priorities. The Committee in its discussions unanimously supported the recommendation of the State Planning Department that funds included in the General Construction Loan of 1963 be strongly supported to permit preparation of detailed plans for as many as eight to 10 or perhaps even 12 of the areas included for development in Part I so that more tangible data could be developed and priorities set therefrom.

The Committee agreed that the requested funds, if made available, be used to proceed on a number of different projects simultaneously with competent consultants to work with the Department of Forests and Parks to develop as quickly as possible the necessary data. From this, tangible land and development needs will be fully known, and priorities established. Funds for these priorities can be firmed up and anticipated on an annual basis over the ten-year period that it is felt will be required to complete the projected system of parks.

The Committee in its deliberations agreed that once sufficient detailed plans were developed, and cost estimates established, efforts should be made to proceed with entire development of whole areas as quickly as possible so that maximum park and recreation usage of the respective areas could be attained in the minimum possible time.

The Committee recommended that detailed plans should be developed, using the recommended funds, on the basis of priorities as listed below:

1. Cunningham Falls
2. Rocky Gap
3. Susquehanna
4. Seneca
5. Tuckahoe \*
6. Gunpowder \*\*
7. Elk Neck \*\*\*
8. Assateague
9. Patuxent
10. Point Lookout

\* . Involves refinements of the details already developed.

\*\* Carter property development has been detailed; work on the balance of the Gunpowder area would be included here on a basis of priorities by Department of Forests and Parks consistent with land acquisition and needs.

\*\*\* Elk Neck is one of the more developed of the park properties. These details would consist of a re-examination or reworking of present lay-out to assure its most efficient usage.

In its deliberations, the Committee also gave recognition to the desire of the City of Baltimore to obtain maximum available Federal money for projected park areas. With this in mind, the Committee agreed to the insertion of Page 19-A into Part I of the Master Plan Report of the following --

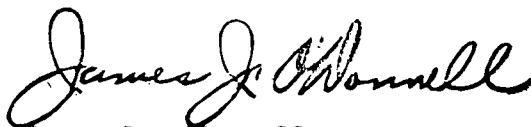
"The Committee also gave recognition to large-scale park developments by Baltimore City and certain Counties, particularly those in the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas. Some of these parks, particularly those in Baltimore City, meet regional park criteria and are recognized in this Report as serving regional function in the over-all park and recreation area requirements".

It was felt by the Committee that the inclusion of that language in the Master Plan Report would assist the City to qualify its facilities as regional in nature and help to make it eligible for Federal aid in the amount of 30% instead of 20%.

In concluding this phase of its work, the Committee on the Master Plan on State Parks felt very strongly that its work should be continued on an indefinite basis to permit it to see through to successful conclusion the completion of the aims and objectives assigned to it by the General Assembly and the Governor.

In submitting this report to the Governor and the General Assembly, I would like to express my personal appreciation to each member of the Committee for his interest and constructive contributions to the Committee's work.

Respectfully submitted,



James J. O'Donnell  
Chairman, Master Plan  
Committee on State Parks